



F/YR23/0841/VOC

Burmor Construction / Accent Housing.  
Variation of conditions 13 (Landscaping), 17 (materials) and 21 (list of approved plans) relating to planning permission F/YR22/0207/VOC (Removal of condition 3 (potential future pedestrian access points) and variation of condition 22 (list of approved drawings), relating to planning permission F/YR19/1068/F (Erect 48 x 2-storey dwellings and 2 x single-storey dwellings, comprising of 24 x 2-bed, 21 x 3-bed and 5 x 4-bed with garages to plots 18, 20, 21, 37, 43 and 49 only with attenuation basin and sub-station involving the demolition of existing buildings) – to allow changes to house types/schedule of accommodation) to allow changes to house types, addition of ASHPs, removal of sub-station, and to provide details of landscaping and materials at Land North Of Maple Grove Infant School Maple Grove March Cambridgeshire  
**Revised proposals** have been received in respect of the above.  
**The revision is:** Change of description to remove reference to condition 10  
Received: 22 January 2025  
Reply by: 12 February 2025  
**Recommendation; Noted**

F/YR25/0045/TRCA

Ms Gemma Newell, Fenland District Council  
Fell a Common Ash Tree within a Conservation Area at West End Park, City Road, March  
Received: 22 January 2025  
Reply by: 12 February 2025  
**Recommendation; Approval *subject to replacement with 2x new trees (preferably ash trees to compensate for the huge numbers of ash trees lost in recent years).***

F/YR25/0044/F

The Scout Association Trust Corporation  
Erect a two-storey rear extension to existing building at Scout Headquarters, Mill View, March.  
Received: 28 January 2025  
Reply by: 18 February 2025  
**Recommendation; Approval**

## 151 Public Participation

Since nobody had given the requisite notice to the Clerk to enable them to address the meeting, no public participation took place.

## 152 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Acting Chair/Town Mayor:

Main Meeting – 6 January 2025  
Planning Meeting – 20 January 2025  
Christmas Lights - 20 January 2025  
Personnel & Admin Meeting – 28 January 2025

### **153 Matters Arising**

Main Meeting, 6 January, Minute 133 – Cllr Field challenged Marcus Phillips being described as a member of the public, as opposed to an invitee. It was determined that the minute was not incorrect; Mr Phillips was a member of the public for the purposes of the meeting.

Main Meeting, 6 January, Minute 136 – a note from the Summer Festival’s Treasurer, Cllr Christy, was circulated to all Councillors on 13 January 2025 to clarify the account balance was correct.

(Bank Statements and Minutes were not provided as a matter of course, but were stated to be available upon request of “councillors”, notwithstanding bank statements had been requested as part of the application and were to be provided prior to the meeting.

A reply in response to the Treasurer’s email from C Lemmon was also circulated to all councillors.

Cllr Field was not happy with the *tone* of the minutes. However, he could not establish that the minute was inaccurate or factually incorrect.

The asterix on Page 2 would be removed, even though it is a correct use of an asterix to denote a footnote and the highlighted wording would remain unchanged.

Main Meeting, 6 January, Minute 142 – Budget Ratification. On 7 January, the Clerk was advised by the FDC Chief Accountant that the council tax base had increased from 6,928 to 6,945. The resultant increase per property would therefore be reduced by 13 pence (from £54.13 to £54.00. As this *did not represent a material change*, the Clerk has submitted the Precept Form to FDC without bringing this back to full council for [re]approval.

Main Meeting, 6 January, Minute 145 – Invoice for VAT advice from Whitings LLP emailed to Cllr Christy on 13 January 2025 for payment.

### **154 Personnel & Admin Meeting**

Following the Personnel & Admin meeting on 28 January it was agreed that Councillor G Christy would report to the Main March Town Council Meeting of 3 February 2025 and request councillors to ratify all the recommendations and findings of the Sub-Committee. In Cllr Christy’s absence, Cllr K French recommended that the findings of the Personnel & Admin meeting be agreed/approved.

Councillors agreed with all said recommendations and findings.

The new Sickness Absence Policy and Procedures are formally adopted and shall be dated with even date.

## **155 Christmas Lighting**

Further to discussions in this matter at the January meeting, the Clerk prepared a report for all councillors (circulated on 24 January 2025) regarding the anticipated cost of the 2024 Christmas lighting activities.

Unfortunately, the report/comparative quote awaited from a local contractor for the erection and dismantling of the Christmas Lights had still not been received.

Furthermore, the Clerk had also not received from Zurich definitive advice in relation to a specific enquiry raised by the Clerk regarding the use of a trailer at the switch-on event. (Zurich aim to respond to enquiries within 7 working days, which had now elapsed. As such, the Clerk had chased for a response on 3 February).

In her absence, Cllr Orbell had circulated her views about lighting and the switch-on event to councillors via email.

Cllr J French confirmed that the switch-on event could not be combined with the Christmas Market. This proposal been discussed many times previously and it was not a workable solution.

Cllr K French proposed that this matter be discussed at the 3 March meeting. Most of the invoices relating to the 2024 lighting expenditure will have been received by this time. In the meantime, it was agreed that the town council strongly wished to continue with the tradition of having Christmas lighting. The necessity for the committee to increase its fund-raising efforts was once again emphasised.

## **156 VE Day Event – 8 May 2025**

Cllr Spencer had circulated to all councillors information relating to the VE Day event on 8 May 2025.

March Town was the first town to accept an invitation to take part in VE Day and is proud to display a Certificate of Grateful Recognition from Pageantmaster Bruno Peak CVO OBE OPR in the council offices.

On 8 May the Proclamation will be delivered by Mark Wilding at 08:00 outside the Town Hall.

Those gathered, including military veterans, the Mayor, councillors and members of the public will parade to Broad Street and the VE Day flag will be raised at 09:00 at the March Town War Memorial, followed by an act of Remembrance.

Bells will ring throughout the town at 18:30, followed by a gathering in West End Park at 20:00.

Choirs and all to sing “I Vow To Thee My Country” followed by The National Anthem.

The Beacon will be lit by the Mayor at 21:30.

Throughout the day, the eating of fish and chips is to be encouraged since fish and chips were not rationed by the then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

Fish and chip shops have been requested to decorate their shops for VE Day and this request is made to pay tribute to the brave fishermen and farmers and land girls of March who toiled the field to bring fish and chips to our tables.

Cllr Spencer advised that he was not requesting any financial contribution from the Town Council towards the event.

Cllr J French advised that special commemorative VE benches were available and proposed that March Town Council purchase 2 said benches for the town, potentially to be located in Broad Street.

This was seconded by Cllr Purser and all councillors voted in favour of this purchase.

### **157 Confidential Item**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of The Local Government Act 1972 the public is excluded from the meeting for item number 157 on the grounds that the item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1-15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

It had been proposed by Cllr J French that Robert Skoulding be nominated to receive the Honorary Freedom of The Town of March (pursuant to Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 180 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980). The honour is usually awarded to a valued member of the community or those who have served in some exceptional capacity.

Since the passing of his father in 2009, Mr Skoulding, in spite of his own health difficulties, has fund-raised tirelessly to enable to the purchase of over 30 defibrillators for the town, as well as fund-raising for their ongoing maintenance.

Without doubt, these devices have saved *countless* lives of residents and visitors to our town.

This was seconded by Cllr Purser, and carried by all.

Clerk to take necessary next steps relating to the scroll etc.

### **158 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

Cllr J French advised that the budget would be set next Tuesday, and was anticipated to be increased by the maximum amount.

Information had been received in relation to the Norwood Avenue LHI scheme; the detailed design is now complete. The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) application has been submitted. However, due to the high volume of applications in recent months, the consultation process is expected to take place in approximately 5–7 months, which is disappointing.

### **159 Fenland District Council Update**

The improvement works outside Iceland should be completed by April 2025.

Cllr J French has had discussions with Matt Wright; FDC may be purchasing a scissor lift for use by the Town Council which could be stored at The Base.

Cllr J French confirmed that the new Christmas lights were being stored at the St Johns chapels. She is currently exploring the possibility of securing a 99-year lease on these premises.

**160 Payments List**

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:05pm.

Councillor G Christy .....3 March 2025  
Mayor of March.